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Statement submitted by Convention of Independent Financial Advisors, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.*

* The present statement is being issued without formal editing.

16-08319 (E) 250516

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Statement

"Implementing the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Moving from Commitment to Results"

The Convention of Independent Financial Advisors with general consultative status at the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) endorsed the United Nations ECOSOC agenda which aims to reinforce the need to "Move from Commitment to Results." On 7 March 2016 the Convention of Independent Financial Advisors convened a workshop on such theme, which was attended by scholars from the finance, social capital and governance fields and H.E. Mr. Oh Joon, President of United Nations Economic and Social Council.

The workshop was the occasion to answer the call of the United Nations to increase multilateral partnerships and solid financial strategies for development, in accordance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development and for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The challenge addressed was how Governments, business and civil society organizations can allow and promote the pursuit of wealth creation and values which can improve transparency, accountability and social dialogue and, as a result, heed the United Nations' call for an "All in" strategy to promote trust and results for inclusive development.

For this purpose, it was agreed that dialogue must play a key role. Dialogue can be transformative and allow people to raise their beliefs and views to another level, hence creating inclusive communities through constructive exchange and dialogue. Such dialogue would create trust as a response to vulnerabilities and inequalities. The ideals of togetherness in social differences must be at the core of addressing inequalities.

Another challenge of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in relation to the financial and corporate sector is to understand how the shared values of the United Nations will impact business leadership and activities for wealth creation as well as for increased social responsibility.

The Convention of Independent Financial Advisors has recognized that more efforts are needed in order for collective action to significantly reduce inequalities of income and wealth between and within countries. It proposed three recommendations answering the Sustainable Development Goal 10 aiming to reduce inequalities and to answer the need to "move from commitment to results."

First:

Concerning Goal 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which calls on Member States to "reduce inequality within and among countries", currently, 1 per cent of the world's population owns 50 percent of the world's wealth, up from 40 percent just ten years ago. To implement the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 10 on the reduction of inequalities, massive wealth creation will be needed. To achieve Sustainable Development Goal 1 — the reduction of poverty by 2030 — how many jobs must be created to reduce poverty around the world — 100 million, 200 million or 500 million, and who will create them?

What amount of new investments will be needed as the working capital to finance such employment initially? Who will have the money to buy the goods and services to be produced by all these new workers across the global economy and so finance their employment on a sustainable basis?

Under today's realities, such new investment will not happen.

There is too much public and private debt; there is too little real economic growth; trillions of dollar value in liquidity has gone into supporting the prices of financial assets and not into investment in plant, equipment, and jobs; low — much less negative — interest rates will not attract savings to be channelled by financial markets into new production.

Second:

The poor and the middle class need private goods, which they can convert to personal assets. It is not at all clear how much the provision of public goods (tax funded entitlements) can contribute to such long-term capital accumulation among the poor and the middle class. For this reason, the reduction of extreme and/or multi-generational poverty will require coordinated services across all governments, faiths, academic and non-profit sectors. In this endeavour, emphasis must be placed on the importance of human potential and capital for wealth creation.

Third:

The poor everywhere must be empowered with ownership of capital assets. These assets in the first place are human capital and social capital (including moral capital and good governance), which lead to the acquisition of financial capital and political capital. People living in rural areas and those dependent on agriculture for their prosperity need high quality natural capital. This call for natural capital answers the Sustainable Development Goal 2, "End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture." We address inequality and poverty by creating the necessary instruments and putting people at the center of ownership of capital assets.

In conclusion, we expect civil society organizations and private sector groups such as the Convention of Independent Financial Advisors to remain vigilant and to continue providing guidance and support to the United Nations in its quest to better define the whole framework for financing the Post 2015 Development Agenda and its SDGs. Our constant work and efforts on these key world economic and financial issues will be of great significance and interest to the United Nations, and will certainly help increase the private sector's motivation, partnerships and participation in financing the new Post 2015 Development Agenda and "Moving from Commitment to results".

Statement

The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reaffirms the international community's commitment towards the construction of a better world by 2030. However, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development requires an effective and comprehensive follow-up and review mechanism in order to ensure that countries are on the right track to meet the SDGs. We have come a long way to ensure that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is ambitious, reachable, and inclusive; therefore, we must ensure the fulfilment of these goals.

As civil society organizations working at the grassroots level, we recognize our responsibilities regarding sustainable development. Our proximity to our communities makes civil society organizations knowledgeable and vital partners for development efforts. Our closeness to the people allows us to understand and take action based on the needs and concerns required to develop accurate local and national development policies. To this end, we are sharing our concern about the lack of national and local development plans aligning with the 2030 Agenda. National and local targets are essential for the success of the SDGs, and must be constructed and adopted by all stakeholders, especially non-state actors.

We applaud the efforts of Member States and the United Nations System to develop parameters for a follow-up and review framework based on existing platforms. However, we must continue to build on efforts at the national and local levels while also taking into account universality, ownership, participation, monitoring, results and transparency. Civil society organizations can contribute significantly to the follow-up and review process in the upcoming years. Their professionalism and closeness to the realities of communities are great assets for monitoring contributions and overall progress of the 2030 Agenda. The multi-level approach that the SDGs had envisioned must also include the concerns of local and municipal governments and organizations. The High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development can be a leading conference for these community-based approaches.

Throughout the construction of the 2030 Agenda, civil society organizations demonstrated their leadership and interest in participating at all stages of this new global development agenda. In Mexico, for example, civil society organizations such as ours led wide consultation processes among hundreds of thousands of citizens to identify their priorities within the SDGs thanks to the My World Survey. We hope Member States will continue to include citizens' voices in the review and implementation process through open and democratic platforms such as the ones developed during the construction of the SDGs in the last three years.

We believe that the HLPF in this first review process will facilitate the conditions and support to achieve an open, transparent, accountable and functional revision of the SDGs for 2030 in which civil society organizations and other stakeholders play a key role.

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Statement submitted by Cubraiti, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

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Statement

The theme for the 2016 session of the Economic and Social Council "implementing the post-2015 development agenda: moving from commitments to results" and the goal of the 2016 High Level Political Forum (HLPF) "Ensuring that no one is left behind" can be addressed with an integrative political social-economic infrastructure that includes partnership programs between civil society, Non-Governmental organizations, businesses and international corporations, an "ECOSOC HLPF PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM".

We recommend that all Non-Governmental Organizations with ECOSOC Special Consultative Status be partnered with a corporation, business or financial institution that generates more than 3.7 million US dollars a year through an "ECOSOC HLPF PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM". Each partner will work together to ensure they are aligned with HLPF goals and achieve quantitative and qualitative results by ensuring the financial and administrative support to the NGO's mission in alignment with the 2030 Agenda and HLPF goals, then meet annually to discuss outcomes and results.

Cubraiti, Inc. believes there is a direct correlation between the people and the land. To "Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystem, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss as HLPF goal number 15 states, is to protect, restore and promote sustainable life forms and the diversity of human life systems.

In a world where economically disadvantaged peoples voices and their cultural traditions are suppressed by colonialism, corporatism, genocide, war and modern-day slavery, children, youth and adults are left adrift and cut off from their own cultural, artistic and ancestral traditions. Far too often, those from a privileged economic background have access to the arts as a medium for self-realization.

Access to the arts has been increasingly denied to children and youth according to their economic standing. This must be challenged so that all can have an opportunity to grow, learn and flourish through self-expression and creativity, ensuring that no one is left behind. Access to healing arts such as music, dance, art, crafts, writing, painting, story-telling, healing traditions and artistic expression, must be granted as a fundamental human right.

Cubraiti, Inc. not only advocates for arts as a human right but also believes that a sustainable approach to the 2030 Agenda and HLPF goals can be implemented effectively through a direct political social-economic partnership formed between corporations and NGOs.

The implementation of a viable "ECOSOC HLPF PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM", that enables an accredited NGO to adopt goals according to its mission and implement sustainable change, will not only help create a more inclusive and global society, but will help create a world politically, artistically, economically and socially just. Implementing such a pathway will allow our youth, political leaders and civil society to be engaged by voices that honour the planet, animals and human diversity.